

News Briefs

Dining facility
The Cardinal Inn Dining Facility is now open to all ranks for all three meals. The facility is located on 7th Street near the Airmen’s dormitory complex. Monday through Friday, breakfast is served from 6 to 7:30 a.m., lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner is from 5 to 7 p.m. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, brunch is served from 9:30 a.m. to noon and dinner is from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call the dining facility at Ext. 2820.

Dorm dinner
The February dorm dinner is at 5 p.m. Thursday at the community center, not at the base chapel as in past months. The menu is submarine sandwiches. Donated side items appropriate for the dinner, such as chips, dip and cold salads, can be dropped off at the community center by 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Door prize drawings will be conducted and a Bible study will follow the dinner for those who would like to attend. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500 or a first sergeant.

Free theme park admission
Now though Dec. 31, Sea World and Busch Gardens parks are offering free single-day admissions to active-duty military, active-duty reservists, U.S. Coastguard, National Guardsmen and as many as three dependents per family. To obtain the free one-day admissions, eligible participants can register online at herosalute.com or at the entrance plaza of participating parks.

Inside



FEATURE

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BLAZE TEAM members are recognized for their outstanding efforts at the Annual Awards Banquet.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Nine-month-old Summer Thompson takes a break from morning playtime at the child development center Thursday. The Columbus AFB CDC has maintained accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children since 1993 and is the only nationally accredited center in Lowndes County. For more information on the accreditation process, see story on Page 13.

AFAF campaign kicks off Wed.

The Columbus AFB Air Force Assistance Fund “Commitment to Caring” campaign kicks off Wednesday and runs through March 30.

Airmen are asked to contribute to any of the four official charitable organizations of the Air Force.

The charities benefit active-duty, reserve, guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families. This is the 32nd year of the fund drive. Charities receive 100 percent of designated contributions.

“The need for (Air Force Aid Society) assistance remains strong,” said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer. “Last year, the Air Force Aid Society helped more than 30,000 Airmen with \$21.1 million in assistance — that is a lot of help!

“Contributions are vital for the society to sustain this kind of help; it is truly an Airmen-helping-Airmen program,” General McGinty said.

The Chief of Staff of the Air

See **AFAF**, Page 2

Columbus AFB Training Timeline									
Phase II				Phase III				Wing Sortie Board	
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required Flown Annual
37th (05-13)	2.12 days	-3.03 days	Feb. 11	48th (05-05)	0.02 days	3.31 days	Feb. 18	T-37	842 523 9,818
41st (05-14)	-0.37 days	-0.23 days	March 9	50th (05-05)	1.82 days	-4.35 days	Feb. 18	T-38C	441 368 5,201
								T-1A	405 391 4,618
Graduation speaker: Maj. Gen. Loyd S. Utterback, 2nd Air Force commander									

Aviation conference offers network opportunity

Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — For the 16th time in as many years, women involved in aviation will gather to network and discuss issues surrounding their chosen industry.

The 16th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference runs

March 10 to 12 in Dallas.

The event is a great opportunity for both women and men involved in aviation to network and further develop their professional careers, said Chris Patterakis, special assistant to the secretary of the Air Force for community relations.

“Women in Aviation International is a staunch supporter of aviation interests,”

Mr. Patterakis said. “The group has members who are engineers, female astronauts, students and pilots. It’s an all-aviation oriented organization. Women involved in it are looking for networking opportunities and are also involved in helping provide scholarship opportunities.”

See **CONFERENCE**, Page 4

Tack on another one



Tammi Baudoin

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the January enlisted promotees. Pictured are: (front row) to airman: Kimberly Cockrell, 14th Services Division; Cristina Sullivan, 14th SVS; to airman first class: Jonathan Boyd, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Christine Mounts, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; Brian Ciccone, 14th CES; Maria Galvan, 14th Security Forces Squadron; (back row) to airman first class: Alex Galvan, 14th SFS; Learone Peagler, 14th CES; Emily Miller, 14th Operations Support Squadron; to staff sergeant: Joseph Senkovich; to airman first class: Jeremy Coupal, 14th MDOS; to senior airman: Tiffany Rewerts, 14th MDOS; and to master sergeant: Brandon Enea, 14th SFS. Not pictured are: to airman first class: Arik Dumas, 14th MDOS; Wendy Scheibe, 14th Communications Squadron; to senior airman: Stephen Bonner, 41st Flying Training Squadron; Stephanie Brock, 14th OSS; Meredith Carrick, 14th Medical Support Squadron; Marc Jamison, 14th SFS; and Rhiannon Pickard, 14th OSS.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 17 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



AFAF

(Continued from Page 1)

Base family support centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements. Information is also available online at www.afas.org.

— The Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widow’s Fund in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base which provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older. More information is available at www.afenlistedwidows.org.

— The Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund in San Antonio, a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family

members. The Air Force Village Web site is www.airforcevillages.com.

— The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, which provides rent and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted people in their own homes and communities. The LeMay Foundation Web site is info@lemayfoundation.org.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible. For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center’s Voting and Fundraising Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund.

For more information on local procedures and goals, call Capt. Christopher Daniels at Ext. 7736. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News)

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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Program allows full-time study while active duty

Crystal Toenjes
72nd Air Base Wing

TINKER AFB, Okla. — A program allowing active-duty enlisted Airmen to attend college full time without loss of pay or benefits, and graduate with both a degree and a commission might just be the best kept secret in the Air Force, officials said.

“It’s easily one of the best programs in the Air Force, and not a lot of people know about it,” said Maj. Gregory Nelms, an instructor and the admissions officer with University of Oklahoma’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 675.

“You stay on active duty while going to school with full pay and benefits and a full scholarship. Where’s the down side?”

The Airman Education and Commissioning Program gives eligible Airmen up to three years to complete a technical, nursing, foreign language or area studies bachelor’s degree and then be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

“A lot of people have goals of getting their degree and a commission; with this program you can accomplish both at the same time,” Major Nelms said.

Three cadets currently attending OU were previously stationed here, and two other’s recently graduated from the program.

“I was going to school part time at Rose State (College in Midwest City, Okla.) and planned on transferring here at some point,” said Cadet John Demster, who has 16 years of service and is in his final semester studying chemical engineering at OU. “It was taking way too long to get through school taking one or two classes at a time.”

Cadet Demster was a technical sergeant in the 552nd Air Control Wing before applying to the program.

Cadet Daniel Snodgrass, who was a staff sergeant with the 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, will graduate in 2006 with a degree in electrical engineering. He has been in the Air Force about six and a half years.

“One of my personal goals is to get a degree, but I wasn’t getting it done between deployments, (temporary duties) and the demands of my work schedule,” Cadet Snodgrass said. “So the quickest way and best way I found to do that was to apply to the AECP.”

Cadet Michael Lukawski, a master sergeant in 552nd Air Control Wing, will complete his mechanical engineering degree this spring.

The cadets said they agree there have been big changes in their lifestyles going from the daily environment of an Air Force base to a college campus.

“When you go from the military environment to a public university classroom it’s an eye opener,” said Cadet Lukawski. “We’re in our 30s, and the average college student ... well, isn’t.”

Major Nelms said being on a college campus is a very unique environment for these nontraditional stu-

dents, and he often calls on them in class to share their real-life military experiences with their fellow cadets.

“One of the things I decided to do was to treat this as a job,” Cadet Snodgrass said. “I come here early in the morning, and I don’t leave until early afternoon — no matter when my classes are or how many I have during the day because I want to get all my studying done here.”

Besides earning college degrees, the cadets also appreciate that the program has allowed them to spend more time with their families since they are not deployed.

“I’ve been able to see my daughter grow up,” Cadet Lukawski said.

The cadets said they also appreciate being able to provide for their families’ needs because they continue to receive their full pay and health benefits and access to all services on base, and will not have to worry about paying off any student loans when they are done.

“There’s no way I could have done it full time,” Cadet Demster said. “I could have gotten out of the military and gone to school, but when you’ve got a house and a family you’ve got to pay the bills. This was a great opportunity for me.”

To qualify for the program, applicants should have at least one year in service and on station, both of which are waiverable, and 45 earned college credit hours, up to 15 of which can be earned through testing.

Applicants for the technical, foreign language and area studies majors who reach age 30 on or before April 1 will need to submit an age waiver for review to assure they can complete their studies before their 35th birthday. Nursing major applicants can be commissioned up to age 47 with an age waiver.

Last year, 78 percent of those who applied to the technical fields were accepted, 88 percent of the nursing candidates were accepted, and 53 percent of the applicants in the other areas were accepted.

New cadets continue to receive pay at the level of their enlisted rank, with all cadets receiving minimum pay as a staff sergeant.

During the program, cadets attend school year round, including summer terms, except when they are attending summer field training.

“Their job is to go to school as a full-time college student,” Major Nelms said.

Cadets may attend any school with an ROTC program or fulfill their degree requirements at one campus and travel to another with a detachment to fulfill their ROTC requirements.

The application deadline for fall 2005 enrollment is March 1.

“If you’ve done well in school before, you’ve got a pretty good shot at getting into this program,” Major Nelms said. “As long as you can commission prior to age 35, don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do this.” For more information, go to <http://www.afots.af.mil/afrotc/enlistedcommissioning/FY05%20aecp.htm>.

Well read



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodríguez
Author Frank Ingels autographs a copy of his book “With Strength and Spirit” for exchange manager Steve Pena. The novel highlights aviation history and life experiences of characters living during World War II and the Vietnam Conflict.

U.S. military transitions tsunami relief efforts

UTAPAO, Thailand — The U.S. Military support effort for tsunami relief is nearly complete.

Combined Support Force 536 officials announced Feb. 3 that the remaining U.S. military units in the region affected by the Dec. 26 tsunamis will begin redeployment.

On Thursday, the country headquarters known as Combined Support Group Indonesia was disestablished based on the departure of its subordinate military units. The overall Combined Support Force 536 headquarters will be disestablished Feb. 12.

Three days after the tsunamis, U.S. military forces deployed to Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia to provide humanitarian assistance supporting host nation disaster recovery activities, officials said. They helped minimize loss of life and mitigate human suffering while the resources of other U.S. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and international and regional organizations were brought into the affected areas.

While the redeployment of military forces has begun, some U.S. government efforts continue.

USNS Mercy, with an extensive array of medical and humanitarian capabilities, arrived Feb. 3 and will remain off the coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, to provide relief assistance.

The deployment of U.S. military forces to Southeast Asia was part of a much larger U.S. commitment to providing long-term humanitarian assistance and disaster support, officials said. This assistance and support will continue to be directed by U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. government’s lead agency for support to the region.

TRICARE program promotes National Children’s Dental Health Month, encourages good oral health practices

February marks the annual celebration of National Children’s Dental Health Month.

In support of this month-long event, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) joins other organizations in promoting awareness about the importance of protecting children’s teeth and maintaining good oral health.

The American Dental Association, recognized as a leading authority on oral health, recommends parents provide children with a balanced diet and limit their snacks as well as ensure they brush their teeth daily and have regular dental checkups.

Other recommended oral hygiene practices include beginning to take care of a child’s teeth as soon as they appear, applying dental sealants and developing good dental habits at home. As children grow older, it is also recommended they wear a mouth guard during sports activities.

Parents of children who are enrolled

in the TRDP are encouraged to call and schedule an appointment today for their child to visit the family dentist for a checkup. The online dentist directory, available on the TRDP web site at www.trdp.org, can help enrollees find a list of TRDP participating network dentists in their area.

Besides coverage for basic diagnostic and preventive services such as oral examinations and x-rays, routine cleanings and fluoride treatments, other important benefits available to children enrolled in the TRDP include sealants, athletic mouth guards, oral surgery and orthodontics.

In addition to daily brushing and regular dental checkups, dental sealants—thin plastic coatings that are applied by the dentist to the chewing surface of the teeth—can help protect a child’s newly erupted permanent teeth from decay.

Application of a plastic sealant on children’s teeth is most often an easy, painless treatment that is long lasting and

very effective in reducing cavities. Coverage for sealants is available under the TRDP at 80 percent of the program allowed amount for children under the age of 14.

According to the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, bicycling results in 100,000 facial injuries annually — mostly in children under age 14.

The TRDP recognizes the importance of wearing protective equipment while participating in all types of physical sports activities and offers coverage for athletic mouth guards at 60 percent of the program’s allowed amount.

A common concern in maintaining the overall dental health of older children is the removal of wisdom teeth.

Wisdom teeth are known to cause more problems than any other tooth in the mouth, whether they have partially erupted through the gum tissue or remain underneath the gum, commonly referred to as “impacted” wisdom teeth.

Most dentists recommend that impacted wisdom teeth be removed between the ages of 14 and 22, regardless of whether or not they are causing problems. When performed by a participating network dentist, oral surgery procedures such as the removal of wisdom teeth are covered by the TRDP at 60 percent of the program’s allowed amount.

Wisdom teeth that have not yet been removed can be extracted during the normal course of an orthodontic treatment plan under the TRDP.

Orthodontic services are covered by the TRDP after a waiting period of only 12 months, at 50 percent of the program’s allowed amount and with a separate lifetime maximum of \$1,200.

For details about applicable age and time limitations, waiting periods and coverage percentages for all the TRDP benefits for children, visit www.trdp.org. *(Courtesy of TRICARE Retiree Dental Program and the Columbus AFB Dental Clinic)*

CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 2)

Speakers at this year’s conference include the chief executive officer of Southwest Airlines, Colleen Barrett; B-1B Lancer pilot Capt. Kim Black; air show performer Chandy Clanton; chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, Ellen Engleman Connors; aviation humorist Ralph Hood; and aviation pioneer, retired Gen. Chuck Yeager.

The conference includes a trade show with more than 120 companies, a job fair exhibit, more than 40 educational seminars and numerous networking opportunities. Women in Aviation International officials will also honor the annual Pioneer Hall of Fame inductees and scholarship recipients.

The Air Force benefits from the partnership with the organization by having access to an untapped pool of diverse individuals with an interest in aviation, officials said.

“The best Air Force in the world requires a stable accession pipeline providing critical skills in areas such as pilots (and) aviation, medical and science and engineering to accomplish its air and space-centric mission,” officials said. “Changing demographics have led to increased competition within the public and private sectors for scarce diversity resources. The Air Force needs a diverse accessions pool of talent to develop its total workforce.”

As part of an agreement between the Air Force and the organization, Airmen who sign up for the conference will be given a free one-year membership in the organization and a subscription to its magazine. For more information, visit www.wai.org.

Sew it on



Tammi Baudoin

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the February enlisted promotees. Pictured are: (front row) to airman first class: Derrick Piper, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Michael David, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Fabiola Brown, 14th Comptroller Squadron; to senior airman: Andrea Shircliff, 14th Mission Support Squadron; to airman: Abel Pelayo, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; to senior airman: Christopher Moore, 14th SFS; (back row) to airman first class: Anthony Legarretta, 14th CES; to senior airman: Jacob Rewerts, 14th MDOS; to airman first class: Nathan Shaw, 14th CES; to technical sergeant: Eric Rascoe, 14th Services Division; and to master sergeant: George Lebron, 14th Logistics Readiness Division. Not pictured are: to senior airman: Jeremiah Johnson, 14th Communications Squadron; and Latasha Kelly, 14th OSS.

Base exercises — Why we conduct them

Maj. Mick Gathright
14th Flying Training Wing



Imagine that you or a loved one is scheduled to undergo major surgery. Now imagine that you've discovered the surgeon performing the complicated procedure has only studied journals about the surgery and has never actually performed the procedure — not even on a cadaver!

How confident are you in the surgeon's ability? If you are like most people, you

wouldn't go through the procedure with this surgeon.

Now imagine if our BLAZE TEAM disaster response forces — the fire department, security forces, medical responders and civil engineers — and the leaders that direct their actions simply studied the checklist items for various scenarios

without practicing frequently.

Would you be confident in their ability to defend our base and protect your life? Probably not.

It only makes sense that we frequently

practice the emergency actions we would take in the event a disaster — natural or otherwise — hits our base.

It is equally important that we create the most realistic scenarios possible to allow our responders the opportunity to hone their critical skills.

Everyone can help in this process — even dependents! If an exercise is in progress, please have patience. There is a good chance you will be inconvenienced.

If you can postpone that trip to the commissary or individual equipment, please do so. If a building or base area is cordoned off for an exercise, please don't try to circumvent the roadblocks. This will only

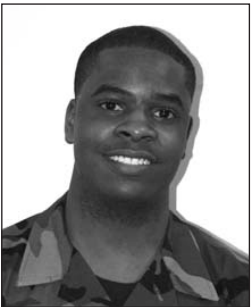
delay or prolong the exercise as well as increase the frustration level of all those involved.

The best way to avoid the frustration of a base exercise is to limit, alter or cancel your planned base activities on exercise days. If you are wondering when base exercises will take place, the 2005 Exercise Schedule is posted at <https://columbusweb> on the Exercise Evaluation Team page.

The next time you find yourself complaining about the extra 20 minutes it took to get out of base housing, please remember that your life depends on how quickly and how well our BLAZE TEAM can respond to your needs.

Airman learns significance of his African-American history

Airman 1st Class Anthony Smith
14th Flying Training Wing



I didn't really know that much about the history of my race when I was younger; and because of that, I wasn't appreciative of my ancestors.

Now that I am a little more educated on African-American history, I have learned that the history was not only important for my race, but it was also important for the history of our great nation because it has had a profound influence on our lives.

Even through the difficult and unfair challenges, African-Americans found a way to overcome those obstacles and at the same time, help this nation become what it is today. Now we can reflect and appreciate how much we have grown and learned from the past events that have and will pave our present and future foundations of growth and unity.

One of my favorite heroes is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I don't think that there was anyone else that was as important as Dr. King. As the leader of the Civil

Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, he led many African-Americans as they demanded desegregation and equal treatment of all races.

He strongly believed that through non-violent means, the nation would soon acknowledge its dilemma

and do the right thing.

I can't even imagine how many times Dr. King was threatened and arrested, but he managed to stay focused on the task at hand. He traveled around the nation preaching about civil rights, freedom and desegregation. Dr. King's passion, dedication and perseverance in his protests soon paid off when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed by the U.S. Congress.

I truly believe that God placed Dr. King on this Earth to lead African-Americans in the civil rights movement, and I don't think he disappointed anyone. Dr. King was a true pioneer in not only my history, but the history of all Americans.

Even though Dr. King is probably the most well-known leader in African-American history, there were a lot of

other people who made huge contributions as well. Harriet Tubman was a "conductor" of The Underground Railroad in the 1800s. Amazingly, Ms. Tubman helped free more than 300 slaves. George Washington Carver was a well-known and nationally honored scientist. Although he's probably best known for his invention of peanut butter, Mr. Carver made many discoveries that were very useful for farmers in helping restore their soil. In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier by becoming the first African-American to play Major League Baseball. Not only did Mr. Robinson play, but he immediately became one the top players of his time. He was elected into the MLB Hall of Fame in 1962.

I am not only thankful for those mentioned, but for all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives, which in turn has given me and many others the opportunity to lead the lives we lead today. If it wasn't for the past, I don't where I would be today. I don't even know if I would be in the Air Force right now. But I do know that I can look at myself in the mirror each day and be proud of what I am — an African-American.

In your opinion, who in African-American History has made the most significant contribution to our country?

"Our Founding Fathers, the 'framers' of the U.S. Constitution, have made the most significant contribution to our country. It was these men of keen foresight who planted the seeds of greatness in many of our African-American giants, reminding them that:



Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Wells
14th Operations Support Squadron

'We (the United States of America) hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'

These men have done more for the African-American community than any other person in history. It's the hallmark of basic human rights; assisting men and women like Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, Martin L. King and Oprah Winfrey, not only with their innate desire but the constitutional right to be treated equally based on deeds, not skin color."

Straight Talk Line

Service at the bowling center

Concern: I would like to bring some problems with the bowling center to your attention. The service at the bowling center has gone down while prices are steadily increasing. Yesterday, my shop placed orders for ham and cheese sandwiches, but no ham or tater-tots were available. Before Christmas break, "to go" orders were placed on plastic plates with aluminum foil on top; they aren't any more. The shake machine is never operational. In addition, the keg of beer is always flat. The service is slow and the employees sometimes have unpleasant attitudes. Thank you for your time.

Response: Thanks for the opportunity to talk about our bowling center. The new management team is diligently striving to improve customer service and food item delivery.

High demand for some food items, combined with slow response from national food distributors, created the shortages. Because of this situation, 14th Services Division leadership has implemented local purchase agreements to prevent food shortages. Until the soft-serve ice machine is repaired or replaced, you will be able to get a shake made with traditional ice cream. In addition, we have also downsized the size of the kegs to be in line with the rate of beer consumption and improve quality. Our services personnel are always looking to better serve our customers.

Col. Stephen Wilson
14th Flying Training Wing commander

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential.

Written questions may be dropped off at the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Combat lessons every Airman should know before deploying

Staff Sgt. Lee Watts
20th Fighter Wing

SHAW AFB, S.C. — There I was, deployed in the war on terrorism, when I found myself under attack, again! I am not a pilot or a security forces troop; I do most of my work in an office; but while in Iraq, I had to repeatedly face enemy fire nonetheless.

If you are in the military, you can expect to deploy. It is what we train for. Whether you work in an office, on the flightline or have some other job, training with a warrior's mindset here at home can keep you alive when you are under attack.

When you literally see the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air, there is no time to think. Your training, or lack thereof, will take over.

During exercises, do you ever grumble about having to wear the helmet or flak vest for hours? Are you one of those Airmen who takes it off when no one's looking?

Yes, it is uncomfortable; but let me stress why we all need to train the way we fight. A few weeks ago I was in Baghdad and was headed to the gym, which was a short walk from the trailers where we slept.

I will admit, it looks ridiculous wearing a t-shirt, running shorts and sneakers with body armor and a helmet. But while outdoors, orders were to always wear your protective gear.

It was a quiet night, but halfway there, four rockets broke the silence. They came without warning; no alarms sounded until after the explosions began. That night, I chose to put on the uncomfortable armor.

A guy 50 yards to my right did not. Today, I am safely home with my family; he is not. His family must now go on without him.

Orders are for a reason. Following them saved my

life, and not following them cost another man his.

Train the way you fight! We are all given orders to go to training. The military provides the training, but your mindset determines its effectiveness.

Have you trained for war or just checked a box? Whether it be self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare or small arms, treat your training as if your life depends on it. It may.

Right now, if the bullets started flying, could you quickly clear a jam in your weapon and get it operational again? This "office" Airman had to do that. Could you treat someone going into shock? When car-bomb shock waves hit my building, that scenario became real.

During a Phase II exercise, when you're showing new Airmen how to do unexploded-ordnance sweeps, are you showing them exactly the way you want them to check around your tent when it really counts? There were more than 100 sweeps in the short time I was there.

During attacks, your training will take over, and so will the training you have provided to others.

When mortars begin to fall, it is too late to prepare. Whatever preparations you make now will be all you have then.

In Baghdad, it was obvious who was fit to fight both physically and mentally. They had trained with a warrior mindset and came to the fight combat-ready.

In this war, fear is the enemy's greatest weapon. The terrorists want us to be afraid: afraid to fly, afraid to visit our own monuments, afraid the costs will be too high to see this fight through to the end.

The way to defeat our enemy is clear. In the fight against terrorism, Thomas Paine once said, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

Senior Airman Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing

SPANGDAHLEM AB, Germany — Today's Air Force family is a mighty quilt that unites servicemembers of all races, religions, nationalities and creeds around the globe.

Our uniforms look alike, but the plurality of those who wear them is rich in culture and history.

This thought made me want to learn a little more about the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of determined men who enlisted to become the United States' first black military Airmen.

The unwavering resolve of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II arose during an era when many people found themselves engaged in another "war" on American soil over segregation and racial equality.

Nonetheless, the Tuskegee Airmen, hailing from various parts of America, strove to become pilots or master other aspects of aviation.

I wondered how such a group, many of whom still

The **Columbus AFB Multicultural Committee** welcomes all individuals to help in its efforts to educate and commemorate the various cultures that help make our nation and Air Force great. For more information, call Master Sgt. Curtis Chiles at Ext. 2783.



CAFB honors outstanding BLAZE TEAM members of 2004

Sid Caradine of the Amzi Love House recites a history of his antebellum home Feb. 11. All annual award winner nominees received tours of selected Columbus antebellum homes as well as lunch at Market Street Grill.

Top: The Air Force Reserve Band from Robins AFB, Ga., provided entertainment for the Annual Awards Banquet Saturday. Right: Staff Sgts. Jay and Krista Moreau, annual award nominees, complete the traditional passing through the cordon.



The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the 2004 annual award winners. Pictured are (from left to right): Senior Airman Chris McClendon, honor guard; Senior Airman Evelyn Baxter, Airman; Tech. Sgt. Carlos Ramirez, NCO; Master Sgt. Curtis Chiles, senior NCO; Capt. William McElhinney, instructor pilot; Maj. Randy McCalip, field grade officer; Ruth Ann Kinion, volunteer; Brenda Carter, civilian category I; Lt. Col. Victoria Farley, flight commander; Chester Hutchins, civilian category III; Dustin Huler, civilian category II; and Master Sgt. Kevin Hawks, first sergeant. Not pictured: Capt. Charles Gilliam, company grade officer.

Photos by Kevin Sisson

CDC: An accredited early childhood program

Martha Mann
14th Services Division

Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a prestigious recognition that has been achieved by a small percentage of early childhood programs nationwide. Accreditation is similar to having the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval."

The Columbus AFB Child Development Center has maintained accreditation by NAEYC since 1993 and is the only nationally accredited center in Lowndes County.

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they consistently meet national standards of excellence.

Child development centers, preschools, kindergartens, and before-and after-school programs are eligible to seek

NAEYC accreditation. Approximately 8,000 programs are currently seeking accreditation.

These programs will undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, caregivers, administrators and classroom observations. They receive an on-site visit conducted by early childhood professionals specially trained by NAEYC to validate their self-study results. A team of national experts who grant or defer accreditation independently reviews all of this information.

The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience. The process carefully considers all aspects of program provision — including health and safety, staffing, staff qualifications, administration and physical environment. But the greatest emphasis is on the children's relationships with the staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn — intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

NAEYC accreditation began in 1985 with the first program accredited in 1986. It's the nation's oldest and largest organization of early childhood professionals dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education. NAEYC established accreditation in response to the growing number of American children spending large amounts of time in group settings away from home and the uneven, often inadequate consumer protection afforded by state licensing of child care facilities.

In accredited programs, you will see frequent, positive, warm interactions among caregivers and children. Planned learning activities appropriate to children's age and development, such as block building, painting, reading stories, dress-up and active outdoor play, are how the children's energies will be focused. Parents benefit from accredited programs by participating in regular, two-way communication with their child's caregivers and management staff.

Services offers variety of choices to base families

Valentine's Day gift idea: Today through Tuesday, base people can purchase a \$20 full body massage gift certificate at the fitness center. This service is regularly \$60. The \$20 full body massage can only be obtained through gift certificates and appointments must be made by Feb. 18 in order to redeem the certificates. To schedule an appointment, call 574-0982.

Preteen valentine dance: The youth center offers this night out for preteens from 6 to 10 p.m. today. Cost is \$2 for members and \$3 for nonmembers.

Lovers lanes steak night: The bowling center offers a night of bowling and a steak dinner for \$20 per couple Monday. Reservations start at 6 p.m. Cost includes one hour of bowling and a steak dinner complete with fries, tossed salad and a beverage. For reservations, call Ext. 2426.

Teen aviation camp: Sophomores or juniors for the 2005-2006 school year can register for this Air Force program by Feb. 18 at the youth center. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Casino trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip to Philadelphia, Miss., Feb. 18. Cost is \$25 for club members and \$28 for non-members and includes transportation, \$15 in coins and a free buffet. The next trip is scheduled for March 18. Call Ext. 7861.

Scrapbooking class: This class is offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 19 in the community center and is open to all levels of scrapbookers — from beginners to experienced. Cost is \$10 per person. For

more information or to register, call 434-6935.

Stampin' Up workshop: Workshops are from 9 to 11 a.m. or 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 24 and from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at the community center. Cost is \$5 plus materials or participants can bring their own supplies. For more information or to register, call 434-5076.

Craft classes: The skills development center offers both youth and adult craft classes. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Youth classes are at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Participants will make a rolled arm bench Feb. 24. Cost is \$30 plus fabric. Class times are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Stop by the skills development center to see a display of the upcoming classes available. Call Ext. 7836.

Family fun night: The Columbus Club offers a birthday-themed family fun night from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 24. There will be a jumping castle, a clown, a game of musical chairs, a disc jockey with kiddie karaoke and birthday cake. There will be an adult buffet featuring baked chicken breast, slow roasted beef with gravy, roasted new potatoes, wild rice, a vegetable medley, rolls and butter.

Cost is \$6.95 for members and \$9.95 for nonmembers. The children's buffet features chicken nuggets, corn dogs, french fries, tater tots, macaroni and cheese and jello. Cost for the club member children's buffet is \$3.95 for children ages 6 to 12 and \$5.95 for non-members. Children ages 5 and younger eat free. Call Ext. 2490.

Memphis Grizzlies: The information, ticket and travel office has tickets for the Feb. 25, April 3 and April 8 Memphis Grizzlies basketball games. Cost is \$60 per ticket. An overnight trip is available for the Feb. 25 game for a cost of \$125 for club members and \$140 for nonmembers. Cost includes transportation, one night's lodging and a ticket to the game. Call Ext. 7861.

Birmingham shopping trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip March 5 to the Riverchase Galleria and the Water Mark Outlet Malls in Birmingham, Ala. The bus will leave at 9 a.m. from outdoor recreation and return around 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 for club members and \$18 for non-members. Call Ext. 7861.

Tuck and roll



Pam Wickham

Scott Tucker, certified judo instructor, shows Trevor Martian the proper stance for throwing his opponent, Mason Bonton. Mr. Tucker offers free judo classes during February from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursdays at the community center. These classes are regularly \$35 per month. For more information, call Ext. 7450.

Movies

Today
"Fat Albert"
(PG, momentary language, 93 min.)
Starring: Kenan Thompson and Kyla Pratt.

Saturday
"White Noise"
(PG-13, violence, disturbing images and language, 98 min.)
Starring: Michael Keaton and Chandra West.

All movies are shown at 7 p.m. at the base theater, unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit www.cafb.grapevine.com.

Family Support Center

(Editor's note: *All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.*)

Bundles of Joy

A workshop for active-duty Air Force spouses who are pregnant or have a child four months or younger is from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday. Speakers will provide information about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. The Air Force Aid Society provides a gift package valued at more than \$50.

Time management

A workshop about effective time management is from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday. Participants will learn how to set realistic goals and receive tips on how to prioritize, reduce confusing communication and become better organized.

Relocation assistance

A workshop for people relocating or making a permanent change of station is from 11 a.m. to noon Thursday. Participants will receive information about new bases, checklists to make moving easier and suggestions for traveling with children.

Financial management

A workshop discussing various aspects of financial management planning begins at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Sponsorship training

A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors and sponsors is at 9 a.m. Feb. 22. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

Positive thinking

"Make Every Day a Terrific Day," a video-based program to reduce stressors, is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 23. Participants learn techniques on how to start days positively, and deal with negative situations and behaviors. Registration is required by Feb. 22.

AFAS grant program

The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1,500 grants to eligible military dependents. For more information

about the program or an application, call Ext. 2855 or visit the Air Force Aid Society Web site at www.afas.org.

Base notes

FTAC party

A social for all new and former First Term Airman's Center students, their supervisors and FTAC briefers begins at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at the enlisted lounge. Airmen are encouraged to enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and meet others. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Brian Bailey at Ext. 2409.

COSC social

The Wing Spouses Program hosts a wine tasting Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club social at 6:30 p.m. March 8 at the Columbus Club. The menu is hors d'oeuvres. Cost is \$13.25 for per person, and club members receive a \$2 discount. For reservations, call Cammy Cheater at 434-8915 by noon March 3 with the number of people attending.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD at Bldg. 1052*
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Protestant

Sunday:
9 a.m. — Sunday school at Bldg. 1052*
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary worship service at the community center
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
Tuesday:
11:30 a.m. — Lunch and Bible study
Wednesday:
6 p.m. — Bible study, Pioneer Clubs, teen ministries at Bldg. 1052*

For information about Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the base chapel at Ext. 2500.

*The chapel annex is currently being renovated. All religious education activities are temporarily located at Building 1052.

Taxing situation



Capt. Deric Prescott

Col. Keith Keck, 14th Mission Support Group commander, and Carolyn Jones, tax center director, invite all BLAZE TEAM members to use the free tax assistance facility located at 7211 A Atlanta Drive in Capitol Housing. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For appointments or more information, call Ext. 7613.

Vietnam Veterans: The Vietnam Veterans of America will meet at the Disabled American Veterans Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday to try and start a chapter in Lowndes County. For more information on becoming an officer or joining the chapter, call William West at (662) 256-0510.

Winter ball: The Columbus Police Department hosts a winter ball at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Trotter Convention Center. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the police department. For more information, call 364-1907, 364-6444, 364-6446 or 364-6445.

Volunteers needed: West Lowndes Elementary seeks volunteers to help paint its fourth and fifth grade hallways from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Snacks will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pam Hedge at 327-1562 or jpsnhedge@hotmail.com.

Community chorus: Rehearsals for the Starkville-Columbus Community Chorus spring concert are held at

7:30 p.m. Mondays in the Choral Building on the Mississippi State University campus. The spring concert is scheduled for 5 p.m. March 6 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Starkville, Miss. The repertoire for the concert will be announced at Monday's rehearsal. For more information, call Dr. Linda Karen Smith at (662) 325-2870.

Annual Arts Gala: Bidding for this event begins from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 20 at the The Rosenzweig Gallery in downtown Columbus. All auction items will be displayed in the gallery until March 3 at 8 p.m. when bids are closed on items, excluding Original Arts & Live Auction Items. For more information, call 328-2787 or visit www.columbus-arts.org.

KYOC: The Kyiv Youth Orchestra and Chorus performs at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at Rent Auditorium on the Mississippi University for Women campus. The 67 member group will perform a two-hour program of sacred, classical, folk and jazz, including American and Ukrainian classics and folk songs. Admission is free. An offering box will be located at

the entrance and Ukranian folk art items will be available for sale in the lobby.

Pilgrimage Pageant Ball: The Junior Auxillary of Columbus will sell tickets for this event from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Junior Auxillary Hut at 1000 Park Circle for the annual charity benefiting Lowndes County children. The 55th Pilgrimage Pageant and Ball will be April 9 at the Trotter Convention Center, with doors opening at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person. Balcony tickets are \$15 per person. Tickets for the Royalty Breakfast, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, which concludes festivities, will be \$15. For more information, contact Frances Glenn at 325-2970.

Stitches From the Heart: Stitches From the Heart is looking for volunteers to knit, crochet or quilt blankets, sweaters and hats for babies in need. For more information or to sign up, contact Kathy Silvertson at (866) 472-6903 or e-mail stitchfromheart@aol.com.

For more event listings, visit www.columbus-ms.org.

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one) Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets

Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other _____
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

An unwritten history

Former Negro Baseball League player visits Yokota

YOKOTA AB, Japan — Dennis Biddle captivated an audience of high school students here Wednesday when he spoke about the unwritten history of Negro Baseball League.

“We sat at the back of the bus, we couldn’t eat inside restaurants, and we also slept in the bus because we weren’t allowed to stay in hotels,” said Mr. Biddle, a former star pitcher for the league. “It’s important for kids to learn our history. Most of them don’t know or understand what we went through to open the door for today’s major league players.”

In 1953, Biddle, a 17-year-old right-handed pitcher, became the youngest league player when he signed with the Chicago American Giants. He won 16 games during his first year and went 15-4 the next season before his contract was purchased by the Chicago Cubs.

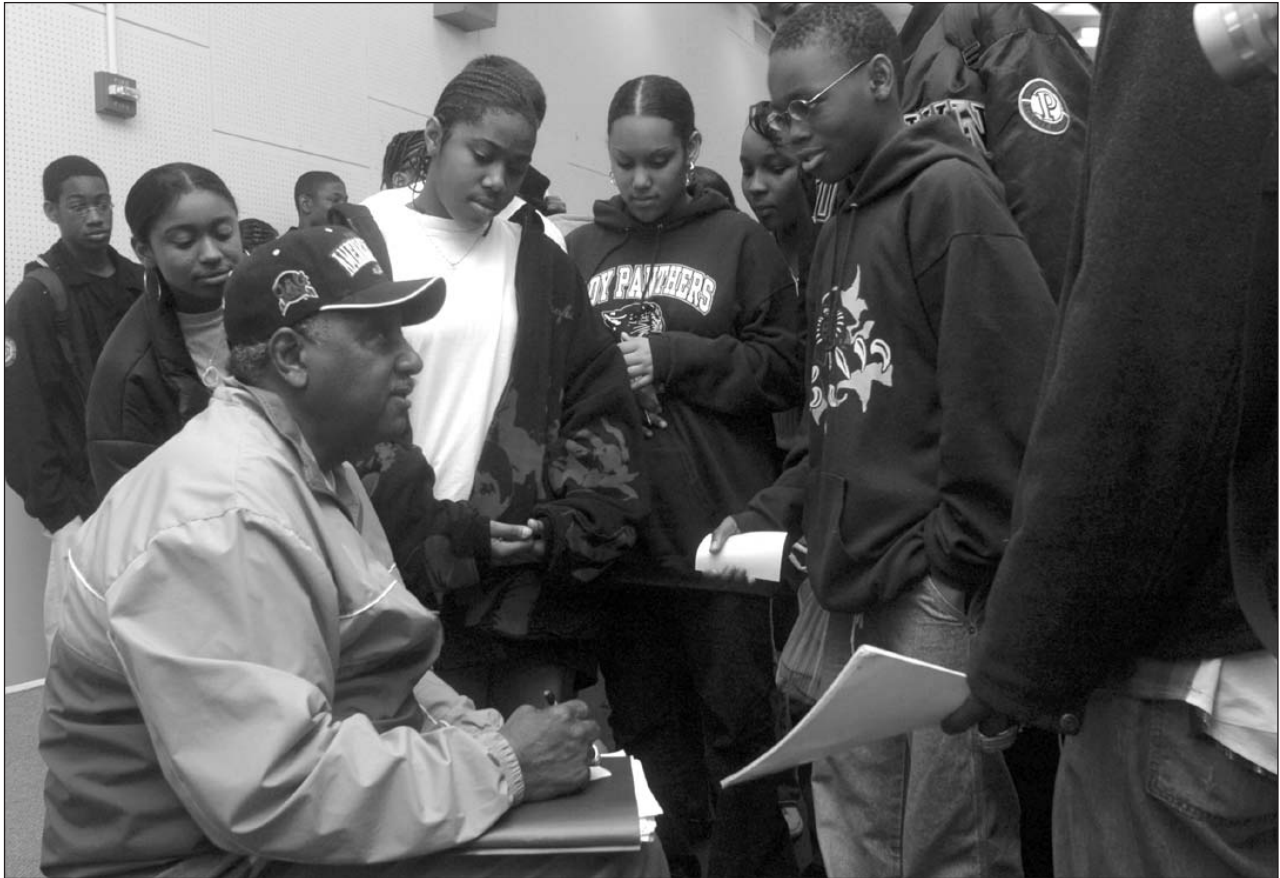
Unfortunately, his career ended when he broke his ankle while sliding to third base before the 1955 season. After baseball, he attended college and worked as a social worker for 24 years.

In 1995, Mr. Biddle was invited to attend the 75th anniversary of the league in Kansas City, Mo. He learned that very few of the 314 players still living had retirement and medical benefits.

He also said he discovered the “Negro League” name was never protected even though memorabilia and merchandise using it was being sold.

Anyone could use the name and make a profit, and there were rackets out there claiming to represent the players, he said.

In 1996, the remaining players, led by Mr. Biddle, copyrighted the Yesterday’s Negro League Baseball Players Foundation to help former players get benefits. The foundation offers various memorabilia such as signed baseballs, posters, calendars and bats, and it uses



Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Dennis Biddle, a former Negro Baseball League star, signs autographs for high school students during his visit to Yokota AB, Japan. Mr. Biddle shared his story at various schools and organizations during his 10-day visit to Japan.

the donations to assist those in need.

Today, the 69-year-old pitcher, who resides in Milwaukee, travels the country visiting colleges, schools and military bases. This is his first tour of Japan.

“I believe that God didn’t put me on this earth ... just to play baseball. I’m here to make sure that young people know the true story of Negro Baseball League. That’s my true work,” Mr. Biddle said.

Shorts

3-person iceberg scramble

Shotgun start for this golf event is at 10 a.m. Feb. 19. Entry is \$15 for members and \$15 plus greens fees for non-members. To register, call Ext. 7932.

Summer baseball/softball

Sign-ups for the Caledonia Sports Association summer baseball and softball leagues are from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 at Ola J. Pickett Park press box in Caledonia, Miss. Participants do not have to reside in Caledonia or attend city schools to participate.

The divisions are as follows: tee-ball for ages 4 to 6; coach pitch for ages 7 to 8; baseball for ages 9 to 10; baseball for ages 11 to 12; girls softball for ages 9 to

10; and girls softball for ages 11 to 12. Registration fee is \$40, and a birth certificate copy is needed. For more information, call 251-0117.

Tennis players wanted

Female tennis players, both military and civilian, are invited to participate in a Columbus city women’s league. Players with an ability of 2.5 or greater are desired. Call 28-8944.

Air Force volleyball

All ranks of active duty, guard and reserve men and women are invited to apply for the 2005 All Air Force Volleyball Training Camp. The camp is scheduled for April 22 through May 16 in Hawaii and Colorado, including travel days. All interested servicemembers must submit an Air Force Form 303 to

the fitness and sports center by March 1.

Selections will begin around March 10. The Air Force Sports office will send a message to the major commands approximately three weeks before the camp begins. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Umpires wanted

The Caledonia Sports Association seeks people interested in umpiring youth summer softball and baseball. Training is conducted Thursday evenings and some Saturdays. For more information, call 364-0414 or 251-0117.

Spring Soccer

The last day to register for spring soccer for ages 3 to 13 is Feb. 18. The season runs until April 28. Parents must bring a sports physical. Coaches for the

soccer season are also needed. Players

can register at the youth center. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Aerobics classes

A variety of aerobics classes are available at the fitness center. On Mondays, spin classes are at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; on Tuesdays, a cardio combo class is at 9 a.m., strength and tone is at noon, Pilates is at 5 p.m. and cardio kick boxing is at 6 p.m.; on Wednesdays, spin classes are at 11 a.m and 5 p.m., step classes are at noon and a fit circuit class is at 6 p.m.; on Thursdays, cardio combo is at 9 a.m., strength and tone is at noon, Pilates is at 5 p.m. and cardio kickboxing is at 6 p.m.; and an 11 a.m. fit circuit class is available Fridays. For more information, call the fitness center at Ext. 2772.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez
Melissa Diaz, Catholic pastoral coordinator, serves a helping of lasagne to Lt. Col. Frank Rossi, 50th Flying Training Squadron commander, at the Mardi Gras celebration Sunday at the community center.



Parishoner Lisa Quintero, 14th Services Division, burns an old palm leaf to make ashes for the Ash Wednesday Mass. As a reminder, Columbus AFB residents must get permission from the base fire chief before conducting any open flame operation.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Vu, 14th Flying Training Wing head chaplain, carves a Chinese roasted pig.

Base chapel celebrates Mardi Gras



Bruce Baudoin, 7, and his sister Taylor, 8, play a friendly game of table hockey at Sunday's celebration. About 100 parishoners gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Lenten season.